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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding **for Equipment for the Center for Education and Research in Microelectronics** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **Morgan State University**, located at 1700 E Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21251.

The center will produce a complementary curriculum in chip design and fabrication technology using the educational cleanroom to be developed in this project. Using existing faculty in engineering and the sciences, new hires, collaborations with local Federal Labs as well as private industries new courses will be developed in electronic materials, VLSI design, semiconductor manufacturing, semiconductor testing and metrology, and advanced packaging. A key element of the program will be the utilization of existing one-year master's programs for MSU's undergraduate engineering and computer science students, while also expending these programs to include community college transfers as well as Physics and Mathematics graduates of HBCU Liberal Arts Colleges. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because they will be used to provide "start of the art" semiconductor fabrication equipment for the Morgan Center for Education and Research in Microelectronics. Estimates show that when the program is fully operational, it will have 30-40 undergraduate students and 10 1-year master's students, this would yield a graduation rate of 10 undergraduates/year and 10 graduate students per year. An additional number of students would come from the certificate program. All jobs in the semiconductor industry are at the high end of the pay scale. This curriculum will train students for the semiconductor industry where it is projected that we will have a major shortfall. The location on this center at Morgan will address that lack of diversity in the semiconductor industry.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with, and supportive of, NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

CADR:lrb